



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— *Making a positive difference through education and service* —

July 8, 2008

To: School Administrators

From: Roger Dorson, Coordinator
School Administrative Services

Re: Update on Vision-Screening Requirements

Beginning July 1, 2008, every child enrolling in a public school kindergarten and new enrollees in first grade must receive a comprehensive eye examination from a state-licensed optometrist or physician. This requirement is a part of legislation (Senate Bill 16) enacted in 2007. The law also created a state-level Children's Vision Commission, with members appointed by the governor, to establish specific vision-screening criteria.

By January 1, 2009, parents and guardians shall provide to the school district proof of the required vision exam or a statement that they are opting out of the exam. The form to be used for completing this vision exam was adopted earlier this month by the Children's Vision Commission. The form is available from the Missouri Optometric Association (www.moeyecare.org) or from the Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (www.midwesteyemd.org). The cost of the exam is the responsibility of the parents.

Also beginning with the 2008-09 school year, all public school districts are required to conduct "eye screening" for each student – once before the completion of first grade and again before the completion of third grade. For this year (2008-09), school districts should use the eye-screening procedures that they have used in the past. Standardized screening protocols will be developed by the Children's Vision Commission before the 2009-10 school year.

If you need more information about this subject, we suggest that you refer to the resources provided on the Missouri Optometric Association's Web site (www.moeyecare.org). In the left-hand column of this site, click on the link to "Children's Vision Law."